

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed by the PTO on September 9, 2004, applicants respectfully submit the following remarks. The Examiner asserts that the reply submitted by the applicants on June 3, 2004 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 is not fully responsive to the Office Action dated December 3, 2003. In particular, the Examiner asserts a conflict exists regarding claim status and that the Remarks beginning on page 6 of the reply declare that claims 4, 8, 15-29, 31-35 are cancelled but that the listing of claims (pages 2-5) indicates that claims 15-35 are cancelled.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Remarks of the reply (June 3, 2003) and the Listing of the Claims submitted with the reply are consistent and properly indicate the status of the claims. Applicants requested cancellation of claim 30 in a Preliminary Amendment submitted in the PTO on June 25, 2001. In an Office Action mailed September 30, 2002, containing a Restriction Requirement, the PTO acknowledged cancellation of claim 30 (*see* Action (September 30, 2002), page 2; *see also* Office Action Summary). In the reply submitted on June 3, 2004, applicants accurately noted that prior to entry of the Amendments submitted therewith, claims 1-29 and 31-57 were pending (reply, page 6, lines 2-3). Applicants then remarked, "By the present Amendment, claims 4, 8, 15-29, 31-35 ... are canceled." Accordingly, as reflected in the Listing of the Claims, which is provided with the accepted PTO parenthetical format for claim status, claims 15-35 have been cancelled.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the status of the claims as indicated in the Listing of the Claims (page 2) and in the Remarks (page 6) of the reply submitted June 3, 2004 is consistent and accurate. Applicants respectfully request that claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-14, 36-46, 53-54, and 56-57 be examined on the merits.

Applicants respectfully submit that all claims in the application are allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. In the event that the

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Examiner believes a teleconference will facilitate prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 206-622-4900.

Respectfully submitted,

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